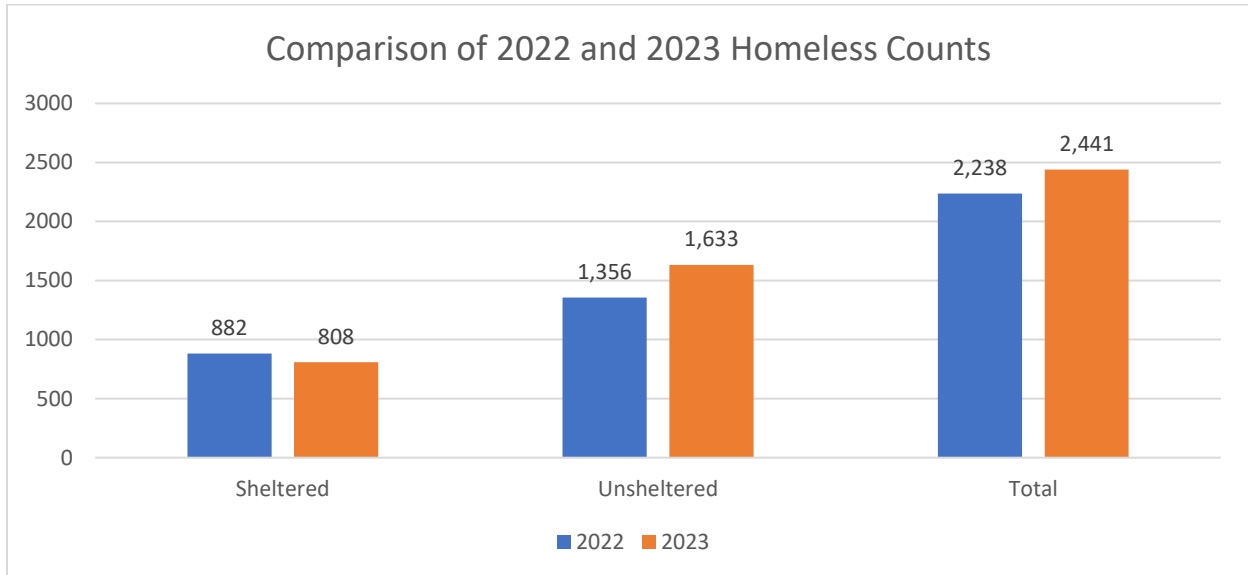## 2023 Ventura County Homeless Count Executive Summary

There were 2,441 adults and children who were counted as homeless during the point-in-time count as noted in the chart below. This number represents an increase of 203 persons or 9.1% when compared to the 2,238 persons who were counted as homeless in 2022.

Chart 1

The total number of persons counted as sheltered and unsheltered increased:

- The total number of persons counted as sheltered decreased from 882 in 2022 to 808 in 2023, which represents a decrease of 74 persons or 8.4%.
- The total number of persons counted as unsheltered increased from 1,356 in 2022 to 1,633 in 2023, which represents an increase of 277 persons or 20.4%.

Regarding sheltered homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that

- CoCs must count all individuals or families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(ii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3. This includes individuals and families *"living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)"* on the night designated for the count. This includes individuals residing in Safe Haven projects.

Regarding unsheltered homelessness, HUD states that

- CoCs must count all individuals or families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3. This includes individuals and families *"with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground"* on the night designated for the count. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) assisted households who are still unsheltered on the night of the count (e.g., staying in an encampment and being assisted by an RRH project to obtain housing) must be included as part of the unsheltered count.

Ventura County first conducted a homeless count and subpopulation survey in 2007 as listed in Table 1. The following table compares the homeless counts since 2007. However, the homeless count and survey has been conducted every year beginning in 2009 except in 2021 (see note below).

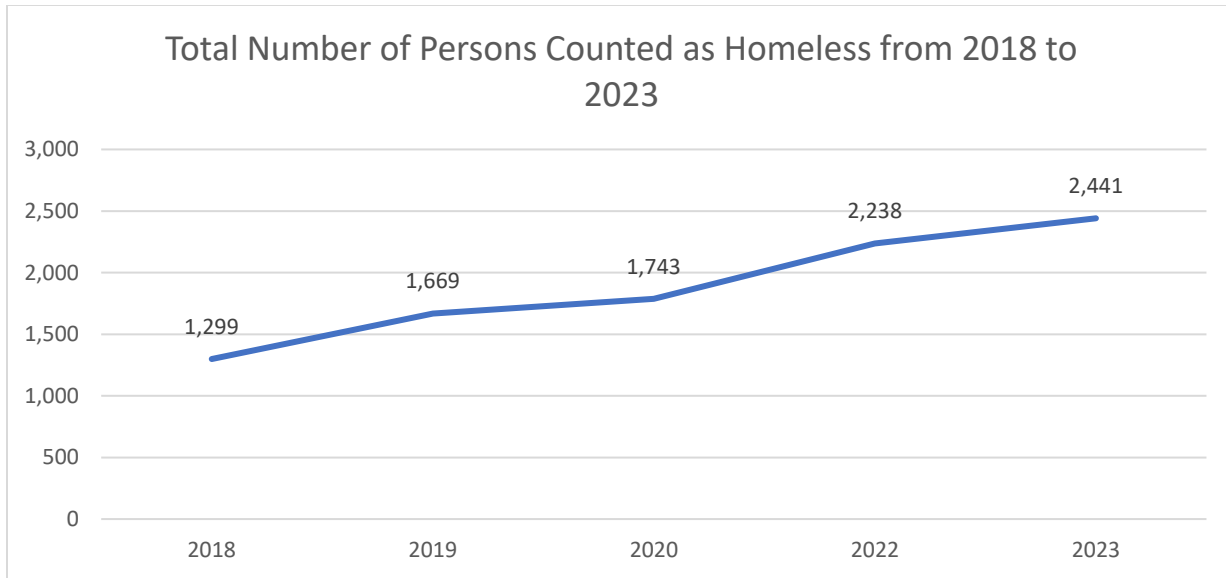Table 1: Ventura County Homeless Counts from 2007 – 2023.

Year	Total # of Homeless Persons	% of Increase or Decrease from Previous Year
2007	1,961	-
2009	2,193	+12
2010	1,815	-17
2011	1,872	+3
2012	1,936	+3
2013	1,774	-8
2014	1,449	-18
2015	1,417	-2
2016	1,271	-10
2017	1,152	-9
2018	1,299	+12.8
2019	1,669	+28.5
2020	1,743	+4.4
2021	*	*
2022	2,238	+25.2
2023	2,441	+9.1

*The Ventura County CoC received an exception from HUD not to conduct an unsheltered count because of pandemic related reasons.

The next chart shows that the number of persons counted as homeless has increased significantly between 2018 and 2023.

- The number of persons counted as homeless in 2018 was 1,299 and 2,441 persons in 2023, which represents an increase of 1,142 persons or 87.9%.

Chart 2

Total Number of Persons Counted as Homeless from 2018 to 2023

The next table provides the number of homeless persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area. A count was not conducted in 2008 and an exception was granted by HUD not to conduct an unsheltered count in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2. Comparison of the total number of unsheltered and sheltered persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area

Year	Camarillo	Fillmore	Moorpark	Ojai	Oxnard
2007	10	5	13	82	671
2009	13	4	7	60	679
2010	15	5	1	52	520
2011	29	10	7	40	638
2012	30	16	5	41	522
2013	27	13	9	43	645
2014	38	6	15	62	379*
2015	35	7	7	40	603
2016	24	6	4	29	584
2017	27	0	7	19	461
2018	49	2	3	31	335
2019	33	10	2	47	548
2020	30	10	0	49	567
2021	**	**	**	**	**

Year					
2022	49	8	0	38	793
2023	78	5	3	44	838

*This number was artificially low due to an unresolved reporting discrepancy and the winter warming shelter being located in Ventura.

**An unsheltered count was not conducted because of pandemic related reasons.

Table 2. (con't)

Year	Port Hueneme	Santa Paula	Simi Valley	Thousand Oaks	Ventura	Countywide
2007	9	97	163	81	588	242
2009	1	91	303	147	623	265
2010	9	54	229	106	601	223
2011	6	50	226	87	570	209
2012	12	60	284	90	701	175
2013	17	34	211	121	519	135
2014	13	31	194	130	495	86
2015	22	20	202	83	334	64
2016	7	56	99	104	300	58
2017	18	35	105	102	301	77
2018	19	44	143	80	516	77
2019	30	106	121	103	555	114
2020	19	95	162	152	531	128
2021	**	**	**	**	**	**
2022	30	115	141	210	713	109
2023	14	121	150	128	644	416***

**An unsheltered count was not conducted because of pandemic related reasons

*** Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the 2023 homeless count by sheltered and unsheltered persons for each city and unincorporated areas. Among cities, Oxnard had the largest number of unsheltered persons (625) and the largest number of sheltered persons (213). The City of Ventura had the second largest number of unsheltered (452) and sheltered persons (192). Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

Table 3. Total Number of Sheltered and Unsheltered Adults and Children by Jurisdiction in 2023

Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	Transitional Hg		
Camarillo	0	0	78	78
Fillmore	0	0	5	5

Moorpark	0	0	3	3
Ojai	6	0	38	44
Oxnard	194	19	625	838
Port Hueneme	0	0	14	14
Santa Paula	46	0	75	121
Simi Valley	4	0	146	150
Thousand Oaks	0	0	128	128
Ventura	81*	111	452	644
Countywide**	310	37	69	416
Total:	**641**	**167**	**1,633**	**2,441**

*Includes Safe Haven beds.

**Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter locations are not disclosed and thus are reported here. Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

Table 4 compares the total number of unsheltered persons, sheltered persons and the total number of persons counted in 2023 to the same totals for 2022. The city with the largest total number increase (59.2%) was Camarillo and the city with the largest total number decrease (53.3%) was Port Hueneme.

Table 4. 2022 - 2023 Comparison of Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons by Jurisdiction

Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas	Total Number of Unsheltered Persons				Total Number of Sheltered Persons*				Total Number			
	2022	2023	Difference		2022	2023	Difference		2022	2023	Difference	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%
Camarillo	46	78	+32	+70	3	0	-3	**	49	78	+29	+59.2
Fillmore	8	5	-3	-38	0	0	0	0	8	5	-3	-37.5
Moorpark	0	3	+3	**	0	0	0	0	0	3	+3	**
Ojai	32	38	+6	+19	6	6	0	0	38	44	+6	+15.8
Oxnard	463	625	+162	+35	330	213	-117	-35	793	838	+45	+5.7
Port Hueneme	27	14	-13	-48	3	0	0	0	30	14	-16	-53.3
Santa Paula	76	75	-1	-1	39	46	+7	+18	115	121	+6	+5.2
Simi Valley	123	146	+23	+19	18	4	-14	-78	141	150	+9	+6.4
Thousand Oaks	105	128	+23	+22	105	0	+105	**	210	128	-82	-39.0
Ventura	382	452	+70	+18	331	192	-139	-42	713	644	-69	-9.7
County-wide***	94	69	-25	-27	47	347	+300	**	141	416	+275	+195
Total:	**1,356**	**1,633**	**+277**	**+20.4**	**882**	**808**	**-74**	**-8.4**	**2,238**	**2,441**	**+203**	**+9.1**

*Sheltered persons include emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens (Note: only Ventura has a safe haven).

**percentages are only provided for differences that were 200% or less.

***Includes Survivors of Domestic Violence (DV) programs.

I. Unsheltered Persons

Of the 2,441 persons counted in 2023, 1,633 or 66.9% were unsheltered, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as

> "An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings."

Of the 1,633 unsheltered persons, 1,620 were adults and 13 were accompanied children under age 18.

Of the 11 jurisdictions, three include families with children under age 18. The cities of
- Camarillo includes two families with six children consisting of one family with five children and one family with one child;
- Oxnard includes three families with four children consisting of one family with two children and two families with one child; and
- Ventura includes two families with three children consisting of one family with two children and one family with one child.

Of the seven families, two families were two-parent households. One family had two parents and five children and one family had two parents and one child. The other families were one parent households.

<u>Surveyed vs Observation</u>

The goal was to survey, meaning to interview, as many adults who were counted about themselves and any children who were living unsheltered with them. Survey questions focused on requirements from HUD and local information desired by the Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC). The number and percentage of adults surveyed is noted in Table 5.

HUD requires CoCs to report the number of various subpopulations that include chronically homeless individuals and families, persons with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, AIDS or an HIV-related illness, and veterans. The CoC desired local information included a focus on chronic health condition, first time homelessness, foster youth, income, and involvement with the justice system.

Counters surveyed 683 adults that answered questions about themselves and the 13 children living unsheltered with them. Thus, survey information was collected for 696 persons. The survey included questions about gender, age, race, ethnicity, and length of time homeless for adults and children. Other questions about disability, health, mental health, substance use, income, and veteran status pertained only to adults.

Persons were observed and not surveyed if volunteer counters felt unsafe or an unsheltered person was sleeping. Volunteers were asked to count the person by recording an estimate of the individual's gender, age, race, and ethnicity. Of the 937 persons observed, 937 were adults and none were children.

Table 5. Total Number and Percent of Unsheltered Adults Surveyed and Observed

Year	Surveyed		Observed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2019	907	72.1	351	27.9	1,258	100
2020	874	69.1	391	30.9	1,265	100
2022	741	54.6	615	45.5	1,356	100
2023	683	42.2	937	57.8	1,620	100

The next table provides a breakdown of the total number and percent of adults surveyed and observed by jurisdiction.

Table 6. Total Number and Percent of Unsheltered Adults Surveyed and Observed by Jurisdiction

Year	Surveyed		Observed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Camarillo	35	48.6	37	51.4	72	100
Fillmore	4	80	1	20	5	100
Moorpark	2	66.7	1	33.3	3	0.0
Ojai	27	71.1	11	28.9	38	100
Oxnard	225	36.2	396	63.8	621	100
Port Hueneme	14	100	0	0.0	14	100
Santa Paula	67	89.3	8	10.7	75	100
Simi Valley	81	55.5	65	44.5	146	100
Thousand Oaks	36	28.1	92	71.9	128	100
Ventura	162	36.1	287	63.9	449	100
Unincorporated	30	43.5	39	56.5	69	100
Total	683	42.2	937	57.8	1,620	100

The following four tables focus on gender, ethnicity, race, and age for the 1,633 unsheltered adults and children who were surveyed and observed.

<u>Gender</u>

The following table provides a breakdown by gender for the 1,620 adults and 13 children under age 18 in families. HUD requires the summary to consist of male, female, transgender, and gender non-conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female).

Table 7. Gender for Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Male	1,220	75.3	6	46.2
Female	396	24.5	7	53.8
Transgender	2	0.1	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming	0	0.0	0	0
Questioning	0	0.0	0	0
Unknown	2	0.1	0	0
Total:	1,620	100	13	100

<u>Ethnicity</u>

Table 8 provides a breakdown by ethnicity for the 1,620 adults and 13 children under age 18 in families. HUD requires the summary to consist of Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) and Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x).

Table 8. Ethnicity for Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	776	47.9	6	46.2
Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	813	50.2	6	46.2
Unknown	31	1.9	1	7.6
Total:	1,620	100	13	100

<u>Race</u>

Table 9 provides a breakdown by race of the 1,620 adults and thirteen (13) children under age 18 in families. It is important to note that instructions from HUD were to include Hispanics or Latinos in the race categories listed below because the designation "Hispanic or Latino" does not denote race.

Table 9. Ethnicity for Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	37	2.3	0	0.0
Asian or Asian American	6	0.4	0	0.0
Black, African American, or African	97	6.0	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	11	0.7	0	0.0
White	1,110	68.5	12	92.3
Multiple Races	83	5.1	0	0.0
Unknown	276	17.0	1	7.7
Total:	1,620	100	13	100

Age

Table 10 provides a breakdown by age of the 1,620 adults and 13 children under age 18 in families.

Table 10. Unsheltered Adults and Children by Age

Adults:	#	%
Under Age 18	13	100
Subtotal:	13	100
Ages 18 – 24	52	3.2
Age 25 – 34	272	16.8
Age 35 – 44	397	24.5
Age 45 – 54	356	22.0
Age 55 – 64	289	17.8
Age 65+	149	9.2
Unknown	105	6.5
Subtotal:	1620	100
Total:	1,633	100

Other Subpopulations

Table 11 only includes self-reported responses from the 1,620 adults. The most notable finding concerns chronically homeless adults. More than one-fourth (27.4%) of adults were chronically

homeless in 2020. The following table shows that nearly half (46.6%) of adults in 2022 and closer to half (48.6) in 2023.

Table 11. Unsheltered Adults by Subpopulations

Subpopulations:	2022		2023		Difference	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Chronically Homeless Adults	629	46.6	787	48.6	+158	+25.1
Families including Chronically Homeless Families	4*	*	7**	**	-	-
Persons w/Chronic Health Conditions	355	26.3	428	26.4	+73	+20.6
Persons w/a Developmental Disability	121	9.0	131	8.1	+10	+8.3
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	15	1.1	10	0.6	-5	-33.3
Persons w/Mental Health Problems	340	25.2	353	21.8	+13	+3.8
Persons w/a Physical Disability	278	20.6	334	20.6	+56	+20.1
Substance Users	447	33.1	599	37.0	+152	+34.0
Veterans***	71	5.3	134	8.3	+63	+88.7
Experiencing Homelessness Because Fleeing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking	130	9.6	99	6.1	-31	-23.8

*4 families consisted of 11 persons of which 5 were adults and 6 were children, none of whom were chronically homeless.

*In 2022, the total number of adults in the four families were five and represented 0.3% of the total adult population of 1,350.

**7 families consisted of 22 persons of which 9 were adults and 13 were children, none of whom were chronically homeless.

**In 2023, the total number of adults in the four families were nine and represented 0.5% of the total adult population of 1,620.
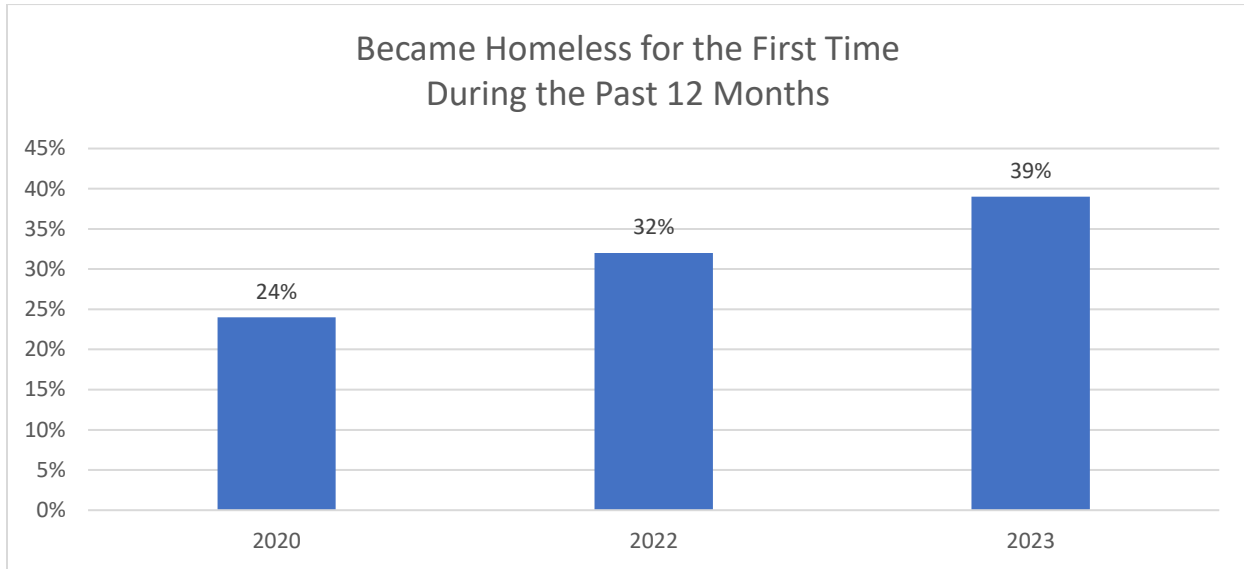
*** 61.9% or 44 veterans were chronically homeless individuals in 2022 and 47.4% or 63 in 2023.

<u>Other Survey Questions</u>

Did you become homeless for the first time in the last 12 months?

The next chart shows that the percentage of unsheltered adults who became homeless for the first time during the past 12 months is increasing. Nearly one-fourth (24%) of unsheltered adults in 2020, nearly one-third (32%) in 2022, and more than one-third (39%) in 2023.
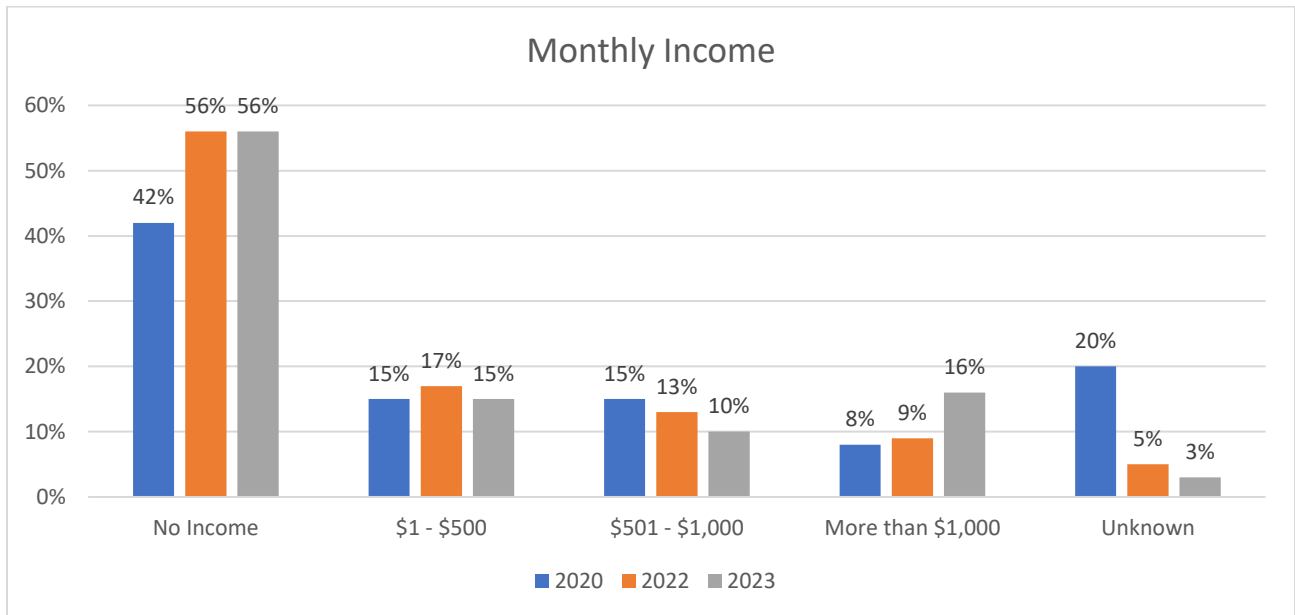
Chart 3

Became Homeless for the First Time During the Past 12 Months

Year	Percentage
2020	24%
2022	32%
2023	39%

How much is your monthly income?

More than half of adults stated that they had no income in 2022 and 2023.

Chart 4

Monthly Income

	2020	2022	2023
No Income	42%	56%	56%
$1 - $500	15%	17%	15%
$501 - $1,000	15%	13%	10%
More than $1,000	8%	9%	16%
Unknown	20%	5%	3%

Next Steps: Implementing Recommendations to End Homelessness

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved the following recommendations to end homelessness in Ventura County. These recommendations are in alignment with the Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness which was adopted in January 2019. The full plan can be found on the CoC website here:

The following recommendations were approved by the CoC Board for 2023:

1. Achieve functional zero with homeless veterans in 2024 in collaboration with Veteran Affairs and local veteran service providers;

2. Further the efforts to end homelessness among unsheltered youth with the expansion of new transitional housing programs for transitional-age-youth (18-24);

3. Reduce the number of chronically homeless adults by 2024 with the addition of new permanent supportive housing units;

4. Encourage each jurisdiction to review their 2023 unsheltered homeless count and review local strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness;

5. Expand the efforts of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Workgroup partnering with people with lived experience to solicit feedback and provide recommendations;

6. Reduce the number of first time homeless households by expanding homelessness prevention programs and implementing diversion strategies.